

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A multi-layer information recording medium capable of recording/rewriting information, comprising a plurality of recording layers sequentially layered through spacer layers, each recording layer being made of a material that changes reflectance upon irradiation of a beam of light and thereby being capable of recording information as a change in reflectance,

each of said plurality of recording layers being provided with alternately and adjacently aligned information rewritable regions and pre-pit regions where predetermined information has been written, average reflectance of said rewritable regions being different from average reflectance of said pre-pits regions,

wherein said pre-pit regions have recording marks that lessen a difference between the average reflectance of said rewritable regions and the average reflectance of said pre-pit regions.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The multi-layer information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein each of said pre-pit regions is composed of a mirror portion and a portion provided with emboss pits.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The multi-layer information recording medium according to claim 2, wherein said emboss pits carry address information.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The multi-layer information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of recording layers includes land tracks and groove tracks.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The multi-layer information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein each of said recording layers includes a medium layer made of a phase change material.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): The multi-layer information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said multi-layer information recording medium has a disc shape and said pre-pits regions are provided in a spokes-wise fashion from a center of the disc.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The multi-layer information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said recording medium has a disc shape and said pre-pit regions are provided periodically in a disc tangential direction.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The multi-layer information recording medium according to claim 2, wherein a line of emboss pits in each of adjacent tracks are provided at a different position in a disc tangential direction.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The multi-layer information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein each of the recording marks recorded in said pre-pits regions is a non-modulated continuous recording mark.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A recording apparatus for recording/rewriting information by irradiating a beam of light to a multi-layer information recording medium capable of recording/rewriting information and comprising a plurality of recording layers sequentially layered through spacer layers, wherein each of said recording layers is made of a material that changes reflectance upon irradiation of a beam of light and thereby is capable of recording information as a change in reflectance, each of said plurality of recording layers ~~is provided with alternately and adjacently aligned~~ comprises information rewritable regions and at least a pre-pit region regions where predetermined information has been written, and average reflectance of said rewritable regions is different from average reflectance of said pre-pit region regions, said recording apparatus including a circuit for generating a recording mark signal for recording a recording mark of a predetermined length, which reduces a difference in reflectance between said information rewritable regions and said pre-pit region, in each of said pre-pit region regions while the beam of light is irradiated on the pre-pit region.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The recording apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a circuit for detecting said rewritable regions and said pre-pit region regions.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The recording apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a circuit for detecting a portion that makes the average reflectance of said pre-pit region regions different from the average reflectance of said rewritable regions.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The recording apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

a circuit for detecting the recording marks already recorded in said pre-pit region regions;
and

a circuit for, when no recorded recording marks are detected, controlling an optical pick-up to record the recording marks in said pre-pit region regions, and when the recorded recording marks are detected, controlling the optical pick-up not to over-write the recording marks in said pre-pit region regions.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a non-modulated continuous recording mark is recorded in a portion having a higher reflectance than the average reflectance of said pre-pit region regions.